

A new Species of *Conchaspis* Cockerell from South Africa (Homoptera : Conchaspidae)

by

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The new species of *Conchaspis* Cockerell described in this paper was recently discovered by the writer during two collecting trips to the South Coast of Natal, where the insects were found to be fairly common on branches of *Ekebergia meyeri* Presl.

Conchaspis ekebergiae spec. nov., fig. 1

Scale coverings of adult female roundish, moderately convex, often strongly distorted due to their position on the host plant; colour reddish-brown to dull dark brown according to age; about 2.4 mm in diameter. Male puparium broadly oval, felty white without striations, about 1.6 mm long. Living adult females turbinate in shape.

Mounted specimens obovate 0.9 - 1.2 (av. 1.02) mm long; 0.6 - 0.8 (av. 0.7) mm wide across the prothorax. Prosoma slightly swollen and sclerotized at maturity; prosomatic tubercles inconspicuous, very broadly rounded. Dorsal and ventral derm differently stippled as shown in figure. Antennae three-segmented; third segment with two slender apical setae and two robust sensory ones; a single sensory seta occurs apically on the second segment. Dorsal ocellar spots conspicuous, entire, represented as clear discs with central area circumscribed by a thick heavily sclerotized rim. Each spot is bounded by an irregular, narrow, rim-like tightening of the derm which is always open posteriorly. Spiracles with one or two parastigmatic pores. Dorsal tubular ducts set in small groups near the lateral margin of the metathorax and first three abdominal segments; the metathoracic group is constantly represented by a single duct, but those on the first, second and third abdominal segments by 1-4, 2-4 and 1-3 ducts respectively. Ventral multilocular pores set singly on the submarginal area of the first four abdominal segments; on the metathorax they are entirely lacking. Metathoracic dermal invaginations well developed and sclerotized; mesothoracic ones absent. Ventral abdominal tubercles lacking. Marginal groups of setae on the abdominal segments arranged as follows: (i) to (iv) 3; (v) 4; (vi) 5; (vii) to (viii) 1. Ventral cephalic setae in front of the mouthparts 80-130 μ long, all very slender.

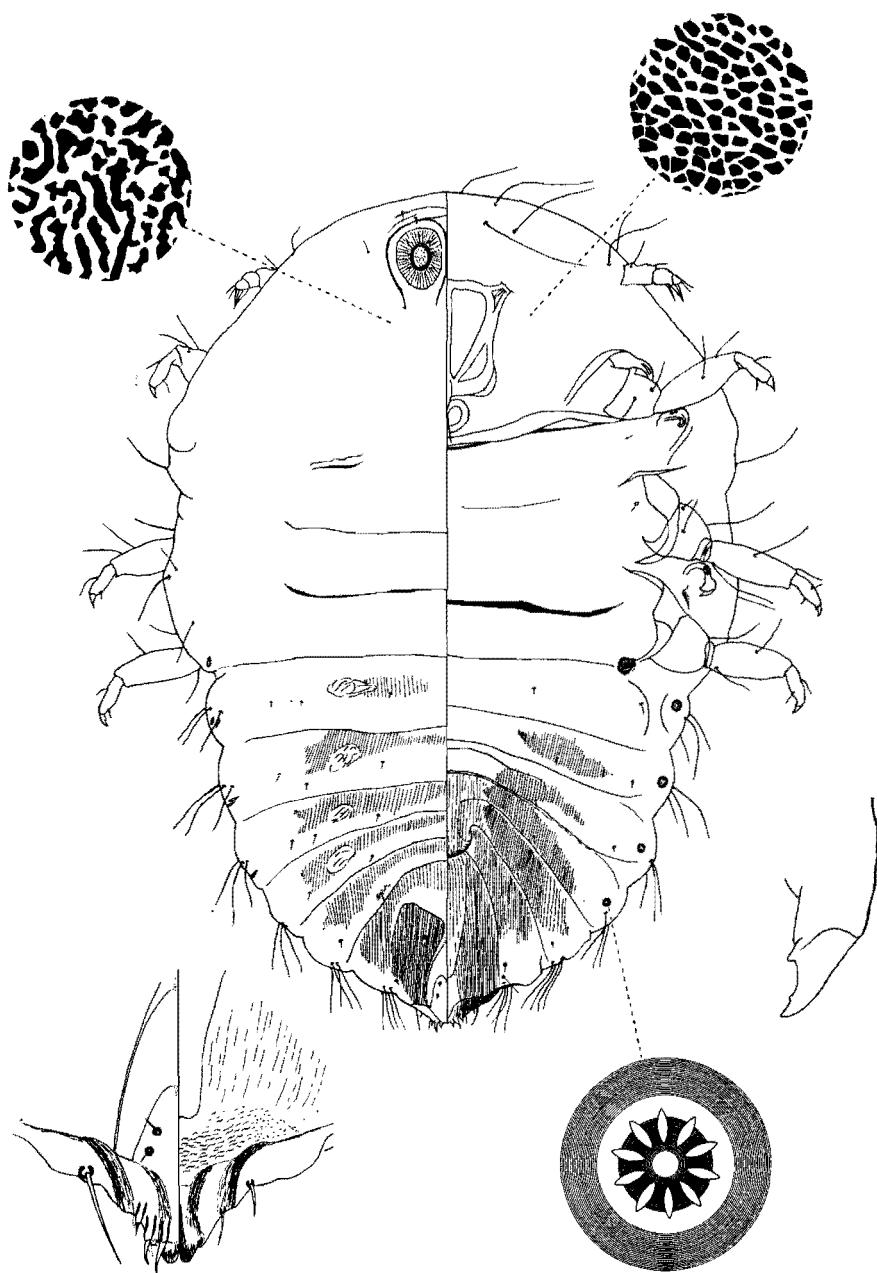


Fig. 1. *Conchaspis ekebergiae* spec. nov.

Material examined: Umkomaas (Natal), February and November, 1962. ♀-Holotype and 37 ♀-paratypes collected on branches of *Ekebergia meyeri* Presl., Meliaceae (J. Munting).

The holotype and 25 paratypes are deposited in the South African National Collection of Insects, Pretoria; six paratypes in the British Museum (Natural History), London; and six paratypes in the U.S. National Collection of Coccidae, Washington, D.C.

According to the morphological features used by Mamet (1954) in his monograph of the world Conchaspidae, this species comes close to *C. socialis* which Green described in 1896 from specimens collected on an unidentified shrub at Tangalla, Ceylon. *C. ekebergiae*, however, departs from Green's species in having only a single multilocular pore on the ventral submarginal area of the first four abdominal segments instead of three to eight as is the case in *socialis*; furthermore in the latter species the dorsal tubular ducts tend to be noticeably more numerous. Though Mamet did not give measurements of the ventral cephalic setae, from his figure it is evident that they are very short, whilst in *ekebergiae* though slender, they are very long.

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